

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1920, January 7, 1956

CALLING ALL SCHOOLBOYS —and schoolgirls, too

All the fun of the National Schoolboys' Own Exhibition is here again. And, as ever, there are plenty of original features, including a competition on Careers of the Future run by Punch, the famous weekly. Its own artists' ideas on the subject include a Space Cowboy whose bull has T.V. aerials for horns, a Meteorologist who can produce weather to order, and a Pedestrian Protector.

But Careers of the Present is the theme of the Exhibition, which provides thrilling foretastes of life in various occupations. The R.A.F., for instance, offers a seat in the cockpit of a jet aircraft and the experience of flight at high speed—without leaving the ground.

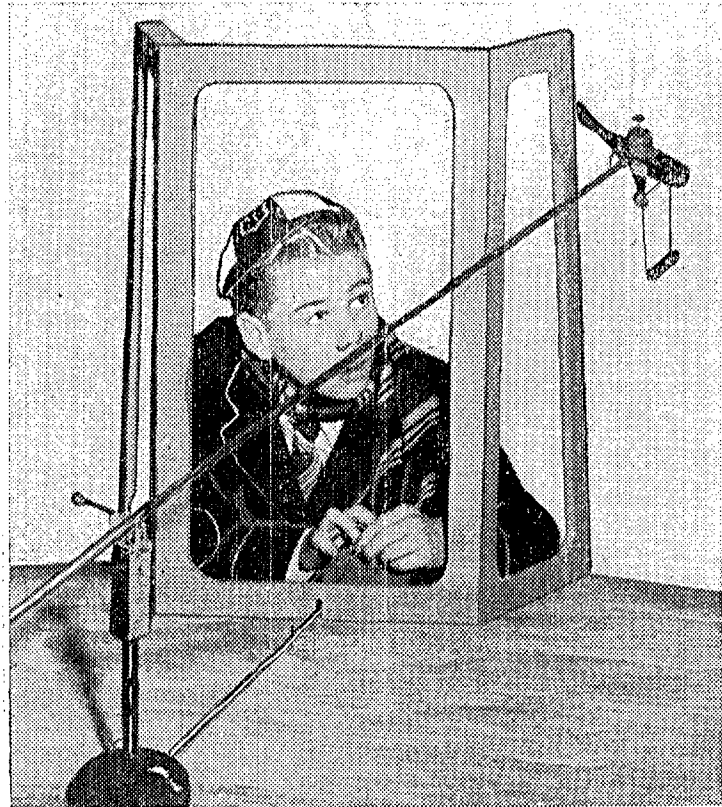
The Shell Tanker Company has erected a full-scale model of a ship's bridge. The English Electric Company show models of guided missiles, electric trains, and generating sets. British Railways have brought a number of

skilled apprentices to demonstrate the kind of work they do.

One of the most exciting competitions is the air-sea rescue test. It enables boys to test their skill in controlling model helicopters which have scoop nets for picking up survivors. And the prize is no less exciting; each day the boy who sets up the fastest time will be rewarded with a helicopter trip. Called "Operation Scoop," it is run by J. Lyons and Company.

This year a challenge has been thrown out to the boys who visit the Exhibition. The organiser, Mr. Ernest Schofield, has found that the girls "generally speaking, appear to have more powers of concentration and more patience than the boys."

So doubtless there will be a great pulling-up of socks among the boys in the Royal Horticultural Halls at Westminster, where this great show is on until January 14. Admission 1s. 6d.



Trying his skill at guiding the miniature helicopter by remote control

200 m.p.h. IN A BOAT

Mr. Donald Campbell, holder of the world water speed record, has described how it feels to travel at 200 m.p.h. in a boat.

"There is a terrific drumming sound," he said. "It seems you're on the edge of a waterfall and about to go over. As the speed mounts, objects appear to go by you, rather than the other way round."

FOOTMARKS ON THE CEILING

A row of footprints on the ceiling is an unusual sight; but it was one that met the gaze of passengers in a London Underground railway carriage the other morning.

As the carriages are never turned upside down for cleaning it is thought the marks must have been made by a practical joker with a pair of shoes.

No cheeseparing at Westminster

Three hundredweight of Old English cheese represents a lot of food; but this amount—no less—has been presented to the House of Commons Kitchen Committee by the Milk Marketing Board.

The idea was to encourage M.P.s to talk in their constituencies about the virtues of English farmhouse cheese. A tasting party was organised just before the recess, and various Members were later seen entering the Chamber reflectively smacking their lips.

The luscious flavours of Stilton and Wensleydale, Cheddar and Cheshire, Caerphilly and Double Gloucester were sampled and discussed. But there are still eight whole cheeses left, some weighing 50 lb. or more, awaiting the return of Members from the holiday.

RIGHT TIME FOR A LONG TIME

The other day in the Town Hall at Copenhagen King Frederik of Denmark pressed a button and started a clock that will keep going for thousands of years.

Designed by Jens Olsen, an astronomical instrument maker who died eleven years ago, the clock contains 15,000 handmade parts and 445 cogwheels. Its dial shows Greenwich Mean Time and Middle European Time, as well as such features as movements of the planets and the Moon.

All these and many other devices are housed in a case only seven feet high. Moreover, it is claimed that this clock will lose only one second in a thousand years. Not surprisingly, they call it Denmark's Eighth Wonder of the World.

SHEEP IN THE ANTARCTIC

Fifteen scientists have spent the past year on lonely Macquarie Island, about halfway between New Zealand and the mainland of Antarctica. They are to be relieved by the Australian Antarctic exploration party in their ship the Kista Dan.

At the same time a flock of sheep will be put ashore on the island to see if they can exist there among the sea elephants and king penguins, which are the chief inhabitants at present.

SEAWATER INSTEAD OF PETROL

An American nuclear scientist believes that seawater could be a better fuel than petrol once it is learned how to harness thermo-nuclear reaction.

"If you can visualise all of the oceans of the world turned into petrol," this scientist told a conference in America recently, "you have a rough idea of the possible energy reserve."



In the wings

Two baby ballerinas watch intently from the wings while waiting their turn to dance at Hamburg's Little Ballet Theatre.

FLYING STUDENT—FLYING COLOURS

A student of New Zealand University recently sat for three exam papers in three different countries—and passed in all three.

He was visiting Europe and found that he could not fly back to Wellington in time for the examinations held in October and November.

So, by arrangement with the registrar of the university, he sat for the first paper at the British Embassy in Rome with one of the staff as supervisor. His paper was then sent by air mail to Wellington.

Continuing on his homeward way he was delayed in Sydney,

Australia. So it was arranged that he should sit the second paper there, six days after leaving Rome. For the third—and final—paper he managed to reach Wellington in time.

Now he has been advised that he has "passed with flying colours."

POPULAR RECORDS

Scotland's only gramophone record library, at Motherwell, is enjoying tremendous popularity, and it is estimated that by the present time borrowers must have enjoyed 30,000 playings of some of the world's finest music.

PRIME MINISTER'S NEW TEAM

By the CN Press Gallery Correspondent

New Year—new Ministers! Seven months after the General Election, Sir Anthony Eden has made many changes in the Government. But for the most part these have meant a rearrangement of talent, a reshuffling of his former team.

To most people's surprise Mr. Butler has left the Treasury to become Leader of the Commons as Lord Privy Seal—one of the ancient offices of State which do not involve departmental duties.

As Chancellor of the Exchequer for more than four years he presented five Budgets and it was thought he would bring in at least one more to mark the Government's general policy of freeing the British people from economic controls.

But the time has come for the Government to plan their policy not only for the next three or four years but for the new age of atomic energy and automation.

So Mr. Butler, who planned Conservative policy from 1945 onwards, is made responsible not only for the direction of Government business in the Commons but for the "onward look."

His place at the Treasury has been taken by Mr. Harold Macmillan, who in little more than a year had been both Defence Minister and then Foreign Secretary.

QUICK CHANGES

Perhaps the most remarkable transition is that of Mr. Selwyn Lloyd. In 14 months he has risen from a lesser post—that of Minister of State at the Foreign Office—to be successively Supply Minister, Defence Minister, and now Foreign Secretary.

He is 51, which for office at this level is considered young. The recent CN sketch of his career recalled how courageously he stood up to his old opponent, the late Andrei Vishinsky of Russia, at the United Nations.

Sir Walter Monckton has followed Mr. Selwyn Lloyd as Defence Minister, leaving the Ministry of Labour where he had toiled for four years to preserve industrial peace, in the main, successfully.

Those have been the chief Cabinet changes. Altogether three Cabinet and three other Ministers resigned, among them Viscount Woolton (now an earl), who at 72 was the oldest Minister of them all.

As a result the average age of the Cabinet has fallen from 58 years 6 months in November 1954 and 55 years 8 months last April, when Sir Anthony took over from Sir Winston, to 54 years 4 months.

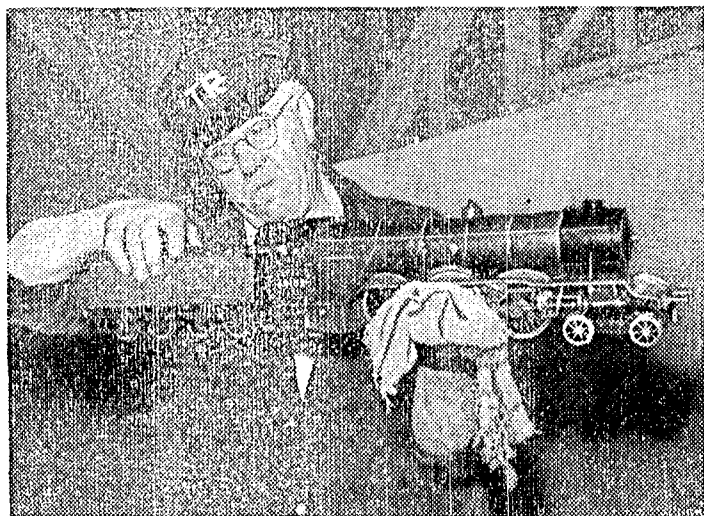
CHANCE FOR YOUNGER MEN

For younger men the changes are encouraging—fresh evidence that the Prime Minister intends to give "youth" (in the political sense) its chance.

Mr. Iain Macleod at 42 has left the Ministry of Health for a Cabinet seat as Sir Walter Monckton's successor at the Ministry of Labour. With him he has taken as deputy Mr. Robert Carr, aged 39, who was for some years the Premier's Parliamentary private secretary.

When Mr. Macleod became Health Minister in 1952 he went straight from the back benches. This feat is now repeated by another young man, Mr. Aubrey Jones (44), who followed Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd as Fuel Minister.

When Parliament returns from the Christmas recess on January 24 the "new boys" will have had time to get a grip on their jobs. The House will be quick to sum them up.



The Earl's hobby

Many hours of work and care have been put into one of the world's finest miniature railways, owned by the Earl of Northesk, at Bracknell in Berkshire. He is seen here tending one of the 40 locomotives which run over the 3000 feet of electrified track.

Last salute to a pioneer

With the death of Sir Keith Macpherson Smith, Australia has lost a great national figure, and the world one of its pioneer airmen.

Sir Keith Smith, son of Scots parents, was born in Adelaide 65 years ago, and spent his early life on a sheep station. During the First World War he served with the R.F.C. (later the R.A.F.) as a pilot and flying instructor, and it was while awaiting repatriation to Australia that he embarked with his brother, Ross Smith, on an epic flight to Australia.

FLYING BLIND

On November 12, 1919, the two brothers, with two sergeant mechanics, took off from Hounslow in a Vickers Vimy bomber, a machine similar to the one used by Sir John Alcock and Sir Arthur Whitten Brown to cross the Atlantic.

Then they headed through the bitter cold towards the Continent, and Keith Smith soon had a chance to prove his mettle as a navigator. For three hours while in the vicinity of the Alps they flew blind, eventually breaking cloud to find they were still dead on course.

With blinding rain beating into the open cockpit and ice constantly coating their goggles, they battled on. At one stage even their sandwiches froze solid.

SITTING ON THE TAIL

Flying at 80 m.p.h. in the trusty Vimy, they survived storms and monsoons (during one they had to make a hole in the fuselage to let rainwater out); kite-hawks, which collided with them over Calcutta after take-off; and a broken tail-skid in Siam. At Sourabaya, in Java, they found the airstrip was a sea of mud, and before they could take off, matting had to be borrowed from 500 native huts to form a runway.

On one occasion the wind was so strong that one of the crew had to sit on the tail plane to keep it down. On preparing to take off he waited until the machine was moving, then jumped off, sprinted alongside, and was hauled into the cockpit.

WEARY BUT VICTORIOUS

Eventually the Vimy and its weary but victorious crew landed at Darwin on December 10—27 days and 20 hours after take-off. A prize of £10,000 and a knighthood for the two brothers followed.

Sir Ross Smith was killed in an air accident at Brooklands in 1922 while preparing for a round-the-world flight. His brother Keith lived to see airliners shrink the journey time between England and Australia to a mere 40 hours.

At the time of his death, Sir Keith Smith was head of Vickers in Australia, vice-chairman of British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines, and a director of Qantas and Tasman Airways.

He had helped to "bind close the outposts of the Empire through the trails of the sky."

News from Everywhere

CARDIFF FOR EVER

Cardiff, long the unofficial capital of Wales, has now been officially recognised by the Government.

Citizens of Kentucky can now vote at 18 instead of 21. This will enable 150,000 more people to vote. Georgia is the only other American State to allow voting at 18.

Brush-up for George



One of the jobs enjoyed by Iris Daley, supervisor at the Children's Zoo at Regent's Park, is making George the zebra look smart. And George enjoys it, too.

There are now 570 television stations in 38 countries of the world. The programmes are received by 42 million sets.

DIAL KIP

A new London telephone exchange called Kipling is planned for the Eltham district.

The Rockefeller Foundation is to grant about £80,000 towards the building of a giant radio telescope in Australia.

More than 10,000 birds will be on view at the National Exhibition of Cage Birds, at Olympia, January 12, 13, and 14.

Girls of Iowa State University Pipe Band will visit Scotland during a goodwill tour of Europe next summer.

DOG PARACHUTISTS

Rescue dogs were dropped by automatically-opening parachutes during recent exercises in the Alps.

Senior Sea Scout Anthony Cole, of East Cowes, has been awarded the Gilt Cross for gallantry in rescuing a child from the River Medina, in the Isle of Wight.

The Y.W.C.A. centenary appeal for £100,000 has been exceeded by £5000.

An oil pipeline crossing six rivers and passing through the Ural mountains, has recently been completed in Russia. It is 830 miles long.



Puzzle Picture YOU MAY WIN

A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF CADBURY CHOCOLATE



Spot how many things begin with 'CA'

Study the picture very carefully and write down on a piece of paper the names of the things you see beginning with the letters 'CA'. Only complete objects—those which can be described in a word—may be put down. Parts of objects don't count. When you have completed your list, mark your total number of objects boldly at the bottom, add your name, age and address, and send it, together with any Cadbury label, in a sealed envelope (2½d stamp) to 'Puzzle Picture', CADBURYS,

Dept. 23, BOURNVILLE, BIRMINGHAM. Please mark your total number of objects boldly in the bottom right hand corner of your envelope as well. Entries must reach Cadburys by January 31st. Prizes of a whole year's supply of Cadbury Chocolate will be awarded for the fifty nearest correct entries marked on that date.

WATCH OUT next month for Cadbury Corner—there'll be more big chocolate prizes to be won!

a free game — for three stamps

SAVE THIS STAMP—it's the first of a set of three. When you have the complete set, send it to Cadburys who will present you with a free game in return.



The Children's Newspaper, January 7, 1956

WHITBY SCHOOLS' WINDFALL

Seven Whitby junior schools have shared a windfall.

Many years ago a generous Whitby benefactor, Mr. John Reid, left a legacy of £100 to help children of elementary schools to gain scholarships. Having been unused in recent years, the sum has swollen to £155 and together with a balance of £100 left in Whitby's wartime Evacuee Fund, has been shared out.

The money will be used to buy things not normally obtainable through the education authorities, such as clocks, barometers, projectors, and radio sets.

Giant and the beanstalk



Inside Storyland, a children's park in Florida, U.S.A., a larger-than-life-size giant sits on top of the famous beanstalk waiting for Jack. The park is made up of models depicting favourite children's stories.

KINDNESS TO ANIMALS EXHIBITION

Many visitors to London will be interested in the Friend to Animals Exhibition which can be seen all this month at The Tea Centre in Lower Regent Street.

Among its many features are film shows, talks by experts, and displays on many aspects of animal care—with the dog and the cat much to the fore, of course. Admission is sixpence for children and one shilling for grown-ups. It is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day except Sunday.

GOOD MEALS FOR GOOD APPETITES

Providing school dinners for London's hungry youngsters is a large-scale undertaking. The number supplied each day last October reached the record figure of 224,000, compared with 206,300 in the previous October. Altogether, in the year ending last October, well over 41,500,000 mid-day meals were served to pupils and teachers.

Quality as well as quantity is important to those in charge of the Service, and the Council's Scientific Adviser states that the meals are even more nourishing than those sampled in 1953.

A choice of dishes is bound to be popular, and the experiment of offering it has been made at a number of schools with encouraging results.

The L.C.C. are to be congratulated on the imaginative way they tackle this big job—and on keeping within the cost of meals approved by the Ministry of Education.

EDISON FOR EVER

Thomas Edison's home in New Jersey is to be preserved as an historic monument together with the laboratory where he worked for the last 44 years of his life.

The laboratory's contents include the inventor's working equipment, with experiments in the stage he left them at his death in 1931. His library and many papers will also be shown with early models of his inventions, and exhibits depicting his life and achievements.

IF YOU WANT TO FLY TO MOSCOW

It is now possible to go to any travel agent or B.E.A. office in Britain and book an air passage to Moscow or any other Russian city. The return fare from London to Moscow is £133 12s., from Birmingham or Manchester £135 10s., from Edinburgh or Glasgow £139 18s.

IN MEMORY OF A PRINCE OF WALES

Travellers along the road to Builth Wells in Brecknockshire may be puzzled by the large stone which stands at Cilmeri.

It was here, in 1282, that Llewelyn, the last native Prince of Wales, was killed in a fight with the English. A small memorial column was erected in 1896 by the



Ready for the Show

Barbara Donoghue, aged 18, gets three of her young charges from kennels at Northwood, Middlesex, ready for a recent English Shetland Sheepdog Show.

BEFORE THE WATERS CLOSE IN

Archaeologists digging in Caithness, on a site which will soon be under water, have come upon a 2000-year-old house.

It is circular and was built in the Iron Age of stone and timber. There was a paved floor with a socket in the middle for the large pole which supported the roof.

A quern, or handmill, was found beside a fireplace in the centre of the house along with hand-made pottery.

In a sand mound nearby several stone structures of an unusual type were found buried. They are believed to have been made by the Vikings.

Both sites are to be flooded by a dam which will supply water to the new atomic power stations at Dounreay.

SHRINE IN THE GRAND CANYON

A church to be known as the Shrine of the Ages is to be built on the south rim of the Grand Canyon, Arizona.

It will resemble a flat-topped Kiva, or ceremonial house of the Hopi Indians, and will seat 350 people. It will have three altars—Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jewish.

An enormous window will overlook the majesty of the Grand Canyon, the great gorge cut by the Colorado River, which is over a mile deep in places.

A MIGHTY TRIBE ARE THEY

Longfellow wrote that "The Smith a mighty man is he"; but in these days we might well adapt it to, The Smiths a mighty tribe are they.

There are some 800,000 Smiths in England and Wales alone and they complicate official lists because about 90,000 of them have the initial A. In London there are about 4500 A. Smiths.

Their illustrious name, for Smiths have been famous in many walks of life, is derived, of course, from the ancient craft of metal-working which helped to found civilisation.

Naturally other countries have their equivalent of Smith. In France it is Le Fevre, Lefevre, or Lefebvre; and in Italy Fabroni, both from the Latin—Faber, a workman. In German it is Schmidt, and in Dutch Smid or Smits. Nearly related Celtic names are Gow and Caird.

MONEY THROWN AWAY

A bulldozer dug up a handful of old copper coins while working on the site of a new home at Manganui, in the extreme north of New Zealand. This money included an English halfpenny of 1792 and Dutch and Portuguese coppers.

They must have been lost by sailors from whaling ships which used to call at Manganui as long ago as 1840 to cut spars from the tall, straight kauri pine trees which then grew all around the harbour. Sometimes as many as 40 ships lay at anchor in the harbour, for the sea near North Cape was famous as a whaling ground in those days when everyone needed whale oil for reading lamps.

Curtain up!

Although the ballerina glides with effortless ease across the stage, the secret of her success is hard work and a strict timetable. Rehearsals, physical training, fitting sessions... she's thankful for a good watch to keep her on time.

MORE THAN 50 'SUPER' NEWMARK WATCHES TO CHOOSE FROM!

Start saving up for one now, or ask for one for your birthday.



Model 1611
The NEWMARK 'School-girl' model. Gilt bezel with chrome back. Gilt figures and hands. Small seconds hand. Coloured leather strap. 61/3



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RADIO AND TV

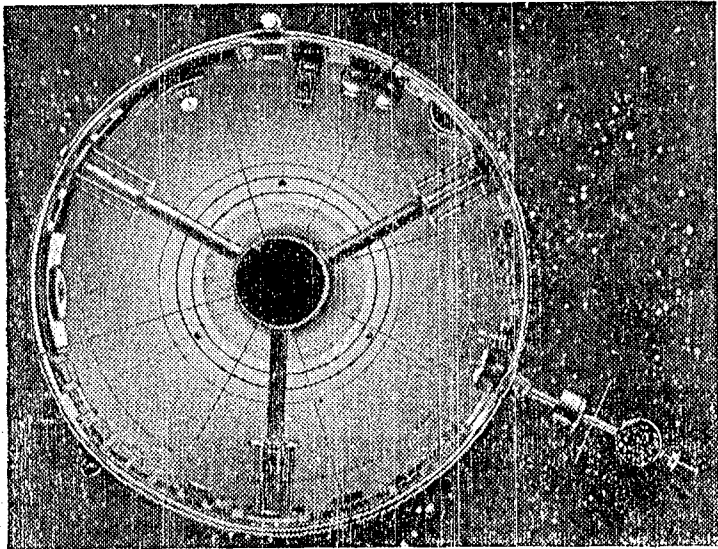
ATTENDING SCHOOL IN OUTER SPACE

IMAGINE an artificial satellite successfully launched from the Earth and poised 1000 miles away in space, and you have the setting for Space School, a new BBC Children's TV serial by Gordon Ford which is to begin next Sunday.

The scale model in the picture represents the satellite as it might be seen from Earth through a very powerful telescope. Accord-

to the circumference, round which lives a colony of 500 people. Left of the projecting radar aerial are houses and a communal centre, including the Space School. Also spread round the perimeter are space ship refuelling tanks, oxygen plants, workshops, and the interstellar communications department.

The story concerns the three Winter children, played by



ing to the author, it is 300 yards in diameter and 100 yards deep.

Producer Kevin Sheldon says that, at the time of the story, space travel is an accepted fact. Mines are already being worked on the Moon and Mars, and the satellite is an advance base for a landing on Venus.

The dark circle in the satellite's centre is the space ships' alighting point. From here they pass through one of the three tunnels

Michael Maguire, Ann Cooke, and Meurig Jones, with Julie Webb (of the Appleyards) as headmistress. Donald McCorkindale, seen as spaceship flight engineer, is son of Don McCorkindale, the former South African boxer.

Space suits will be worn and there is a Space School blazer.

Despite its distance, the satellite is only one hour's journey from the Earth. It would be even less but for a 1000 m.p.h. speed limit!

Britain's youngest silversmith

ROBERT JEFFCOAT, who, at 16, is the youngest silversmith in the country to be granted a hall-mark by the Goldsmiths' Company, will be one of the craftsmen in the Light Programme Parade next Friday.

This is the first of a series designed to help young people who want to make craftsmanship a career.

Besides silversmiths, the series will deal with glass blowers, stone masons, potters, and bagpipe makers.

Underground studio

A TELEVISION studio in a tunnel. That's the latest scheme for Commercial TV. A well-known company making documentary and advertising films is seeking permission to set up a studio in the old disused tramway tunnel in London's Kingsway, just below the street outside Television House.

Scenery, it is said, would be run along the existing tracks in trams, and a tram or bus could be converted for use as the television control room.

Two new serials

CHILDREN'S HOUR begins the New Year with two new serials. This Wednesday (January 4) we can hear the start of Counterspy, from the Welsh studios, featuring two intrepid security officers, Gregory Vaughan and "Rocky" Mountain, in The Jupiter Case.

The Jupiter Mark III is a new guided interceptor missile, and the story tells how Gregory and Rocky try to prevent its destruction by an unknown enemy.

Different in mood is Willikin of the Weald, beginning on Friday. This is a romantic drama set in the days of Henry III.

Voices from the South Pole

THE BBC has given the Transantarctic Expedition special light tape recording machines which they can carry with them on their great adventure across the wide, snowy wastes towards the South Pole. This means that they can keep a diary in sound for listeners at home, and from time to time, during the next two years, you can hear the explorers and scientists telling their stories themselves on the radio.

Behind the news of the week

FRIDAY sees the start of Commercial Television's weekly news magazine entitled The Week.

Caryl Doncaster, who will be in charge, tells me the idea is to give the stories behind the news stories, and Friday night has been chosen as the best for a round-up of world news.

Mobile television units of Associated-Rediffusion in different parts of the country will be used as well as three separate film camera teams. World news reels will be included, too.

The Week will be broadcast from the Television House studios in Kingsway, London, chosen because they are in the heart of the capital within easy access for visitors and last-minute topical items.

Twelfth Night as Shakespeare saw it

"If music be the food of love, play on..."

Every schoolboy and girl who knows Shakespeare's Twelfth Night will recall these opening words, spoken by Orsino. But not many people are aware that there was a Duke named Orsino and that, to his great surprise, he saw himself in Mr. Shakespeare's new play when it was first presented before Queen Elizabeth at Westminster on January 6, 1601. This, at least, is what the American scholar and literary detective Dr. Leslie Hotson will tell Home Service listeners next Friday evening.

In a feature reconstructing the original performance, Dr. Hotson will tell how, rummaging through documents at Alnwick Castle, Northumberland, he found a description of it by the then Russian ambassador. Later, in Rome, he had the luck to discover the Duke of Orsino's own account in a letter to his wife.

Listeners will hear Shakespeare's



Marius Goring

company of players rehearsing the play scene by scene. Shakespeare will be played by Manning Wilson, and Richard Burbage, the actor-manager, by Marius Goring.

ERNEST THOMSON



Driving the new Deltic

The new diesel-electric locomotive Deltic recently came into passenger service on the London to Liverpool line. Drivers will appreciate the warm, dry cab after the noisy, dirty footplate of the steam locomotives.

IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

Charles II is crowned in Scotland

JANUARY 1, 1651. SCONE—In this ancient Coronation place of Scotland's Kings, the 20-year-old Charles, Prince of Wales, was today crowned King Charles II.

It is popularly believed throughout Scotland that the young King will shortly lead an invasion into England to overthrow Cromwell and set the Stuarts on the Throne again.

King Charles was proclaimed King at Edinburgh nearly two years ago—six days after the execution of his father, King Charles I, in Whitehall.

The new King is a very tall man—over six feet high—with a swarthy complexion, striking

black eyes, and darkest brown hair.

The crown was placed on his brow by the Marquis of Argyll, who, it is said, is the one most responsible for persuading the King to accept the Presbyterian Church.

At the ceremony a sermon was preached by the Rev. Robert Douglas who declared it was the King's duty to maintain Presbyterianism.

Mr. Douglas, one of Scotland's most eloquent and fearless preachers, is the grandson of the Sir George Douglas who helped Mary Queen of Scots to escape from Loch Leven Castle 84 years ago.

English officer's bravery

JANUARY 2, 1858. CAWNPORE—A young English officer today distinguished himself by acts of bravery in fighting against the Indian mutineers.

The officer is 25-year-old Lieutenant Frederick Sleigh Roberts of the famous Bengal Horse Artillery who was one of a force attacking retreating Sepoys at Kudagang. He saw two of the Sepoys making off with a

Standard, put spurs to his horse and caught up with the two men as they were entering a village.

Just as Lieut. Roberts seized the Standard from one of the men the other turned and took aim with his musket, but fortunately the trigger jammed.

(The young lieutenant—who was later to become Lord Roberts—was later awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery that day.)

Death of The Confessor

JANUARY 5, 1066. WESTMINSTER—King Edward, called the Confessor, died today at the Palace of Westminster only a few days after the completion of his new Abbey.

The devout and saintly monarch has devoted one-tenth of all his possessions and most of his energies during the past 15 years to the building of Westminster Abbey, and it is already recognised as one of the loveliest churches in all Europe.

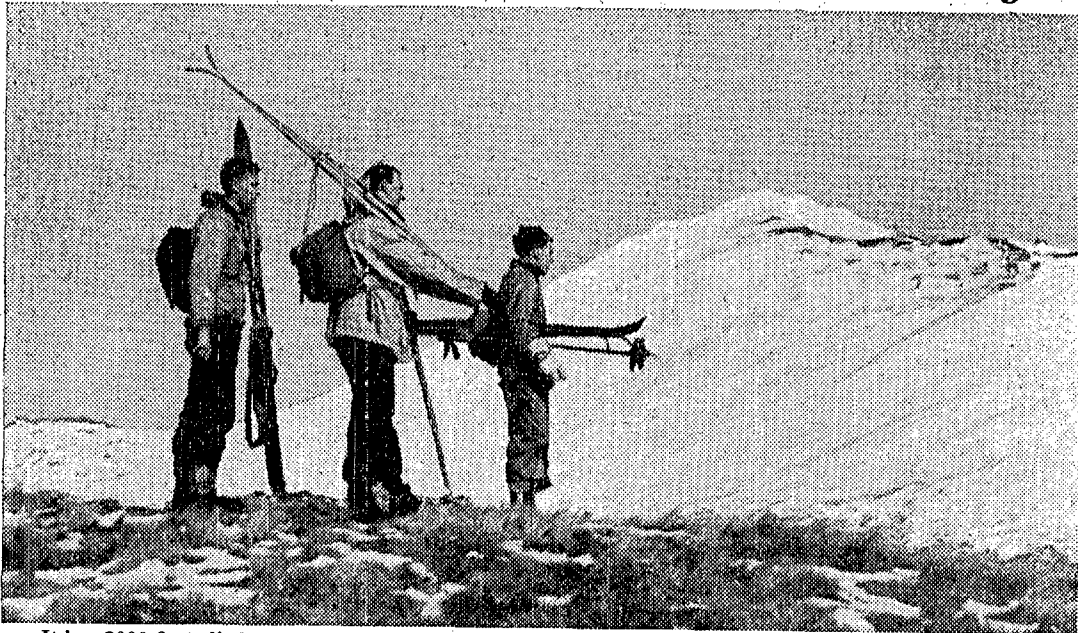
It is a sad circumstance that the King was too ill to attend the consecration of the Abbey on

Innocents' Day, December 28 last, but lay on his bed in his painted chamber at the nearby palace awaiting the return of his Queen who represented him.

Throughout his 24 years as King of England, Edward has concerned himself more with church affairs than with the government of his kingdom.

Although he is said to have promised the Crown of England to the Norman Duke William, on his deathbed he named Harold, Earl Godwin, as King, and the Saxon earl's succession has been agreed on by all the nobles.

Scotland is the Place for Young Ski-ers



It is a 3000-foot climb to the ski-ing slopes of Ben Ghlas in Perthshire, so these three stop for a short rest

SKI-ING is one of the finest of winter sports, and it is becoming more and more popular among young people in Scotland.

A new ski-lift or tow for ski-ers, a powered cable for hauling them from the bottom of the ski-slope to the top, has been built at a cost of approximately £7500. It will operate in the coming season on the slopes of Meall à Bhuidh, in Glencoe. The money was raised by subscription from members of the Scottish Ski Club, which has a junior membership for boys and girls up to the age of 18.

IN BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS

The "M. and B. Project," as it is now called, was mentioned in the club's Journal in 1952. Last autumn the club got word that, subject to certain conditions, the landowner had no objections to their "trying conclusions" with ski-lifts on Meall à Bhuidh, which is in one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland.

Club members are agreed that this is the only mountain offering the three essentials for such a scheme. It is near a trunk road, usually kept clear of snow and within reasonable distance for day ski-ers from residential areas. It provides a sufficiently long tow which at the same time does not interfere with the downhill run. And it holds sufficient snow late in

the season to make sure of ample use.

"When the season opens we shall start using the lift," our correspondent was told by Mr. L. R. S. MacKenzie, Hon. Secretary of the Scottish Ski Club. "It is safe for children," he added, for he believes that boys and girls should



The sun is shining, the snow is crisp, so off we go

begin to learn ski-ing as soon as possible.

"In Norway I have seen boys and girls on skis almost as soon as they could walk," he said. "They only have to step outside the door of their homes in the winter to be in the snow."

The Scottish Ski Club was

formed in 1907 by 14 men in the office of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition in Edinburgh. By 1909 the membership was 130, and before the Second World War it had grown to 300. Now the club has more than 1250 enthusiastic supporters, including a number of boys and girls.

DESIRE FOR THE OPEN AIR

In the last few years many young men in the Army have been taught to ski. There is also a new longing in young people from all walks of life to get into the open air and the mountains. Mr. MacKenzie thinks that these two factors have contributed greatly to the growth of interest in ski-ing in Scotland.

Junior membership of the Scottish Ski Club costs 10s. per annum and application should be made to the Hon. Secretary, 15 Hope Street, Edinburgh.

Mr. J. Kerr Hunter, Senior Technical Representative of the Scottish Council of Physical Recreation, also testifies to the growth of the sport in Scotland.

"In 1946 we were getting inquiries from about fifty to a hundred people who wanted to ski in Scotland," he says. "There are now about 1000 on our mailing list for schemes and courses."

"Scotland is a better country than England or Wales in which to



An expert shows how easy it is to make a perfect take-off . . .



And a novice shows how easy it is to make an imperfect landing

learn ski-ing," he adds. "In the Spey Valley there was a record number of more than 2000 ski-ers last Easter."

Further evidence of the growing popularity of ski-ing in Scotland is provided by the fact that a second series of instruction courses, lasting a week, is to be held at Glenisla Youth Hostel, near Alyth, on the slopes of the Perthshire Highlands.

They will be held from January 28 to April 14, and accommodation, meals, and transport will be arranged by the Scottish Youth Hostels Association, 7 Bruntsfield Crescent, Edinburgh 10.

Ski-ing in Scotland usually lasts from early December till May. No one, of course, can guarantee when snow will be suitable for the sport, but the Scottish Ski Club has a weather report service, including information from centres and area representatives, and special Air Ministry Meteorological Office weekend forecasts.

But, given the snow, ski-ing is the most exhilarating sport in the world and its pursuit in Scotland will take you into magnificent mountain country with the grandest scenery in Britain.



You have to go up to come down, but these ski-ers know the effort will be worth while



Two beginners set out on their first run

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars . London . EC4
JANUARY 7 1956

HAPPY DIARY

IN a letter to one of our national newspapers, a correspondent has told of his intention to reserve one of his new diaries for entries of all the happy events in world affairs. It is an appealing idea.

But such a diary need not be confined to world affairs; why not also note the good things that happen in our own family circle throughout the year? How often we say: "That's a blessing, anyway," but leave the blessing unrecorded.

If we decide to make a note of things that turn out well for us in 1956 we may be surprised in December to find what a Happy Old Year it has been.

21 GOOD YEARS

WITH the issue of its twenty-first annual report the British Council reminds us that it has indeed come of age.

The unspectacular but untiring work it does is probably more appreciated abroad than at home. But ask the professional or technical man from overseas about the programme it has arranged for him, or the foreign student who has been met on arrival and provided with accommodation, and you will hear good reports.

In the big cities of lands near and far, the British Council office or reading room is an ever-present reminder that Britain still has something worthwhile to offer the world.

Well done, British Council. Good wishes to you in all your good work!



OUR HOMELAND

The Editor's Table

Edward Bear, Esq

THIS delightful story of an eight-year-old Surrey girl and her teddy bear appeared recently in the London Evening News.

While Mr. and Mrs. Daniel of Leigh were preparing to take their children abroad for a holiday, Susan asked if she could take her teddy bear. Mother said No.

"Why not?" asked Susan. "Because he hasn't got a passport," replied Mother.

So Susan herself made out a passport for him. It described "Mr. Bear's" height as 1 ft. 4 in., his eyes as hazel, and his fur as beige.

When she showed it to her parents they relented, and so Teddy went abroad with the family. And Customs officials, entering into the spirit of the make-believe, duly placed their official stamp on it.

Think on These Things

ONE day Jesus came to Jericho where lived Zaccheus, a man who had become rich through collecting taxes for the Romans. Zaccheus was anxious to see Jesus but there was a tremendous crowd waiting, and Zaccheus was a little man, too short to see over their heads. So, forgetting all his dignity, he climbed into a tree, and had a splendid view. Then, to his amazement, Jesus stopped, looked up and saw him and told him to come down for He was visiting his house.

Zaccheus, we are told, received the Master joyfully and then, as a sign that he was sorry for his misdeeds, declared that he would give half of his property to the poor and, where he had taken money dishonestly, he would restore it. "This day," Jesus answered, "is salvation come to this house."

So Zaccheus made a new start. And his story reminds us that any one of us who wants to be better, and to do better, needs a new start, like Zaccheus.

New Year, the season of good resolutions, arrives once again and offers us an opportunity.

O. R. C.

Telephone tip

THIS story of a tip that could not be collected comes from the Post Office Magazine.

A telephone operator answered a call-box signal, and in response to "Number, please?" an elderly lady's voice answered, "I have put three pennies in and got the wrong number. Please will you ring the . . . hospital?"

The operator dialled the hospital number and informed the caller, who said: "Young man, I'm putting sixpence in the box for your being so kind and helpful." This she did—and pressed button A.

Through the Looking Glass



Juliet Mills, 14-year-old daughter of the actor John Mills, is taking the name part in Alice Through the Looking Glass at the Chelsea Palace, London.

Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper, January 9, 1926

WE shall soon be talking of the Port of Nottingham. The great scheme of deepening the Trent so that bigger boats may pass to Nottingham from Hull will be completed this year.

The River Trent has been a navigable river for centuries, and for years small barges, towed by patient horses, have passed up and down between these two towns. But in modern times those small barges have not been able to keep pace with the hurrying world, and so the Nottingham Corporation has worked with the Trent Navigation Company on a scheme destined to make Nottingham an inland port.

Above Newark the River Trent becomes a succession of wide shallows. To deepen the river and enable the boats to reach Nottingham additional weirs have been built along the Trent.

JUST AN IDEA

As Bishop F. B. Westcott wrote: The most precious things are the commonest, and these are to be gained, not by large fortunes, but by large souls.

THEY SAY . . .

Two miles of celluloid in a few tin cans is not a work of art.

Annual report of the British Film Institute

THE Olympic Games are contests between individuals. They are designed to be a joyous festival of the youth of the world. The competitors give of their best—to win if they can; but, if they are beaten, to rejoice with the victors.

International Olympic Committee

THE arts are an essential experience. They are a form of fulfilment and understanding. They make people wiser and braver.

Sir William Emrys Williams

THE skill of the doctor is of no avail without the trained mind and hands of the nurse.

Lady Cunningham Graham

QUIZ CORNER

1. What are the colours of the rainbow, and how can you easily remember them?
2. What are the lowest and highest amounts for which a Postal Order is issued?
3. To which English county did St. Augustine first bring Christianity?
4. Which flag is hoisted to show that a ship is about to sail?
5. Why is an eiderdown so-called?
6. How many legs has an insect?

Answers on page 12

Out and About

WE hardly notice yet that the days grow a little longer, yet the countryside is full of new life.

What reminds us of this is the sound of lambs shrilly bleating in their pen, and the deep-voiced call of their ewes.

Across the fields just around here, where a recent fall of snow has almost disappeared, there is a flush of emerald green from the first tender shoots of the winter wheat.

Bare and rugged trees near the farmhouse, as well as the side of an old wooden barn, glow with a different green, that of moss, which renews itself in the dead of winter.

C. D. D.

FROWN NOT ON YOUTH

THEY do their Maker wrong, Who, in the pride of age, Cry down youth's heritage And all the eager throng Of thoughts and plans and schemes, With which the young brain teems.

Bishop C. W. Stubbs

Next Week's Birthdays

January 8



thrillers are The Moonstone and The Woman in White.

Wilkie Collins (1824-1889). Novelist. A firm friend and collaborator of Charles Dickens. His two most famous

January 9

John Jervis, Earl St. Vincent (1735-1823). His harsh discipline made him one of the most unpopular commanders the Navy has ever known. But his methods produced efficiency and seemed justified by his great victory at Cape St. Vincent, 1797, which removed the threat of invasion which hung over England at the time. A grateful country gave him an earldom.

January 10

Lord Acton (1834-1902). Historian and moralist. He it was who wrote "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

January 11

Joseph Jackson Lister (1786-1869). Discoverer of the principle upon which the modern microscope is made. As a small boy he noticed that the view from his window was improved when looked at through air-bubbles in the glass, and he became interested in optics from then on. He was father of Lord Lister, the great surgeon.

January 12

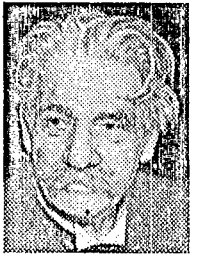
Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi (1746-1827). Swiss educational reformer. His practical work began with the rescue of children rendered destitute during the French invasion of Switzerland in 1798. From this evolved his educational theories. A village in Switzerland for refugee children was named after him.

January 13

Henrietta Stannard (1856-1911). Novelist. She adopted the pseudonym, John Strange Winter, when she published a collection of regimental sketches under the title Cavalry Life. Her best-known book was Bootles' Baby.

January 14

Albert Schweitzer, O.M. (1875). Doctor of Medicine, of Philosophy, of Theology, and of Music, he gave up his career in Europe to dedicate himself to the service of his fellow men, combating leprosy and sleeping sickness on an isolated medical station in French Equatorial Africa.



VAST ARMIES EVER ON THE MARCH

Insects are among mankind's worst enemies. Existing in astronomical numbers—about 50 million to every person on the Earth—they constitute the biggest single menace to man's health and harvests. They are, in fact, responsible for half the deaths of human beings; they take one third of all the food produced.

In self-defence, mankind makes

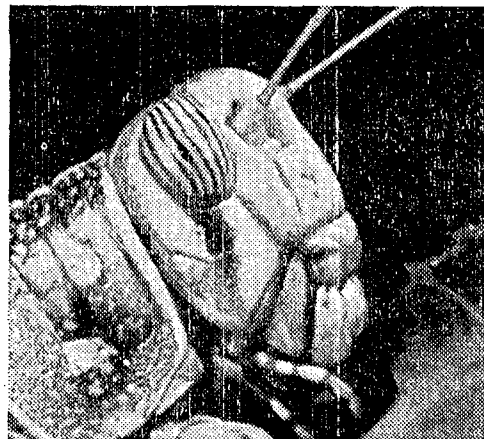
shapes and surprising colours—and in terrifying hordes. It shows us the disease-carriers—the mosquito, tsetse fly, and others—as well as the grim results of their attacks.

It shows us the great raiders of the world's food supplies; the devastating locusts, the pests that prey on the orchards of Europe, the wheatlands of the West, and the tea gardens of the East.

There are impressive scenes showing how man does battle with the insect hordes. In the sequence dealing with locusts, for example, we are shown the aerial spraying of the swarms. Thousands of the creatures adhered to the wind-screen of the cameramen's plane, causing the wiper to fail, so that the pilot had to lean out to wipe the glass clean.

This is indeed a battle picture, magnificently produced. It lasts only 25 minutes, but it is a film which is unforgettable.

Schools, clubs, and other educational and cultural groups can borrow this film, free of charge, in 35 mm. or 16 mm. size from The Petroleum Films Bureau, 29 New Bond Street, London, W.1; or in Scotland from the Scottish Films Office, 16-17 Woodside Terrace, Charing Cross, Glasgow, C.3.



Portrait of a locust

unceasing war on the insects all over the world. It is a war which man must fight with all his scientific knowledge and equipment to overcome sheer weight of numbers. And in order that we shall have greater awareness of this war and the weapons used in waging it, the Shell Film Unit have produced a wonderful documentary called *The Rival World*.

It is a film which shows our insect enemies at close quarters in all the variety of their fantastic

CENTURY FOR THE SISTERS

Two sisters who have just retired from work at a Nottingham clothing factory completed 100 years' service there between them.

Miss Alice Potter started 54 years ago at the age of 13 for a wage of 4s. 6d. a week. Her younger sister, May, joined her there eight years later.

In those days the two worked at the factory from eight o'clock in the morning until seven or eight at night, and then walked home.

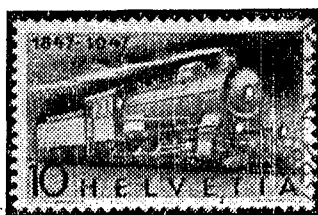
HE EARNED HIS GIFT

Nine-year-old David Cockell of York wanted a level crossing for his toy electric train—a Christmas present. But the cost was 10s., so he decided to raise the money by chopping firewood and selling it at 4d. a bucketful.

It took him three weeks and 30 bucketfuls before he reached his target. Then, when he had the money, David thought he would do something else with it. He sent the 10s. to the York Lost Dogs' Home.

An official said it was the most touching donation he had ever received.

STAMP ALBUM



WHY HELVETIA?

THE FRENCH, GERMAN, and ITALIAN POPULATIONS of SWITZERLAND CALL THEIR COUNTRY 'SUISSE', 'SCHWEIZ', AND 'SVIZZERA' RESPECTIVELY. AS A COMPROMISE THE FORMER ROMAN NAME 'HELVETIA' WAS ADOPTED FOR STAMPS.

STAMP WITH A STORY



THIS HOUSE IS GROOTE SCHUUR (GREAT BARN), BUILT ON TABLE MOUNTAIN IN 1657 AS A GRAIN STORE. CECIL RHODES CONVERTED IT INTO A LOVELY HOUSE. BURNED DOWN SOON AFTER, IT WAS AGAIN REBUILT. NOW IT IS THE RESIDENCE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PREMIER.

AN OLD-FASHIONED STREET IN LEEDS

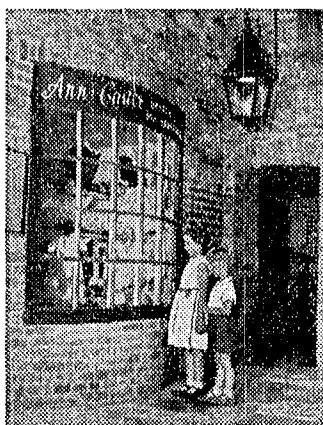
From a correspondent

A slight adjustment of my bonnet and I am walking down the street with Charlotte Brontë. At least, she might appear at any moment for this is a perfect reconstruction of a street as it would have appeared in the 18th and 19th centuries. Where? In Leeds, the city where Charlotte often did her shopping.

This narrow cobbled street is one of the two specially set up and recently opened in the Kirkstall Abbey House Museum. Both are close to where the old monks lived and worked in the famous Abbey, and both are typical of the many Folds, Courts, and Yards so common in Leeds in Charlotte Brontë's day and earlier.

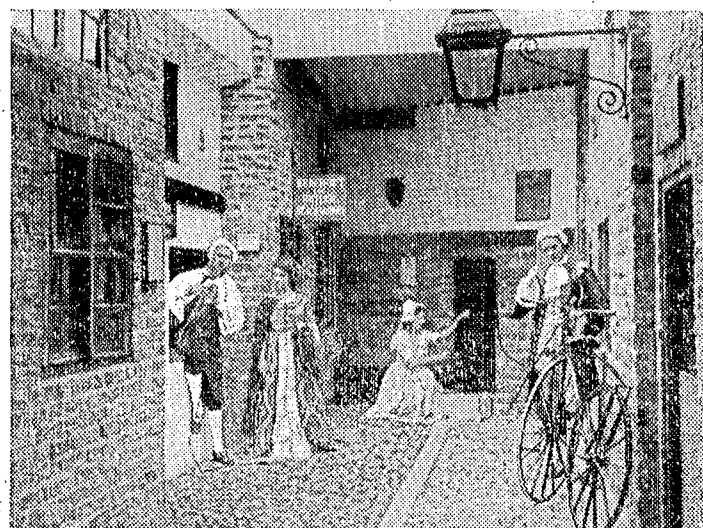
Walking down one of them called Abbey Fold, one can peer into the saddler's shop and see the tools he used for stretching, cutting, and joining the leather. Or one can slip across to the Tanner's to see the skins being prepared. Tanning was done by the monks and later it became one of Leeds' great industries.

Next to the saddler's is the



The haberdasher's shop

blacksmith's shop, for Kirkstall's associations with iron goes back to the days of the monks. The simple weaver's cottage brings to mind the days of handloom weaving, before power machinery was invented. The stone cottage is like those found all over the West Riding in the early 19th century. It has a long room upstairs where the cloth was woven and the industry was famous in the time of Charles I.



Abbey Fold, one of the reconstructed streets

The shops are simple, homely affairs compared with those of the modern city. In the other street a bow-windowed stationer's shop bears the name Edward Baines. He was a printer who bought the Leeds Mercury. The Brontës subscribed to this newspaper and Charlotte obtained files of its back numbers to study when she was planning her Yorkshire industrial novel *Shirley*.

Nearby is the haberdasher's shop with its boxes of 19th cen-

tury goods, all bearing their original price tickets. And opposite is the workshop of Mark Dearlove, the musical instrument maker. Not far away one finds the apothecary's and the watchmaker's shop with its watches dating back over 200 years.

Nor is transport forgotten. In a coach-house is a state coach and two old boneshakers, forerunners of the modern cycle, with a penny-farthing dating from the later part of the last century.

CELEBRATING 300 YEARS OF FREEDOM

The year 1956 is a milestone in the history of British Jews.

Jews were expelled from England by Edward I in 1290, and for centuries they were officially forbidden to live there. In point of fact, from Tudor times, a few Jews did reside secretly in London and other cities, acting as agents for merchants of their own faith in the Low Countries, Spain, and Portugal. Then in 1656, largely owing to the influence of Oliver Cromwell, ever a foe of religious persecution, they were able to return and settle here unmolested.

Their resettlement was officially authorised under Charles II in 1664.

Among the many events to mark the 300th anniversary of their freedom is an exhibition of

Anglo-Jewish Art and History at London's Victoria and Albert Museum from January 6 to February 29. Due to be opened on January 5 by Viscount Samuel, the display will include historical manuscripts and books, portraits, drawings, engravings, ritual silver, pottery and glass.

January 7 is being recognised in all British synagogues as Tercentenary Sabbath, and there will also be a special service of Thanksgiving and Dedication on March 22 at Bevis Marks Synagogue in London—the oldest in the country.

Other events include a garden party at Lambeth Palace on June 12 to be given by the Archbishop of Canterbury under the auspices of the Council for Christians and Jews.



BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING

CROATIA ISSUED ABOUT 190 STAMPS. NEARLY ALL ATTRACTIVE AND INEXPENSIVE.

CROATIA IS A PART OF YUGOSLAVIA WHICH BECAME A SEPARATE STATE FOR A TIME DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. THE FIRST STAMPS WERE YUGOSLAV ISSUES WITH AN OVERPRINT—'INDEPENDENT CROAT STATE'. STAMPS LIKE THE ONE ON THE RIGHT WERE ISSUED LATER.



THE MIRACLE OF WATER AT SANTHIPURAM

There are few things more terrible than drought. At Santhipuram in South India the rains had failed for three years in succession. The people were reduced to eating roots and the leaves of jungle cactus, and when these were all gone they began to trek to the towns, hoping to find water there.

It was two Swedish missionaries who came to the rescue. One was an engineer, but both were clever with their hands, and between them they worked what the people thought was a miracle.

They had brought from Sweden a new type of drilling machine and they drilled a hole down through earth and rock until they came to water. And this is how one of them described the first attempt to drill the hole and pump the water.

1000 GALLONS AN HOUR

"Just ten days after arriving at the village we were ready to make the anxiously awaited test. We had gone more than 100 feet deep and we could hear the splash of the water at the bottom of the hole. People came from far and near. They were packed closely together watching in suspense as the pumping began.

"Then the water came! It was muddy at first, but it soon cleared, and in a few minutes a steady stream of clear, fresh water gushed out of the pipe. It came at 1000 gallons an hour.

"At first the people could hardly believe their eyes. Then two old men crept forward, each with a jar in his hand. 'May we have them filled?' they asked. 'Certainly,' was the answer. 'Take all you want. That's what it's for.'

"You should have seen their delight. In the past these men

had had to work for an hour to pay for every jar of water they used, and now they could have as much as they wanted—for nothing!

"In a few minutes the place was crowded. From every house in the village people came rushing out with jars, some of them newly polished and shiny, others worn and dented, some black with smoke or full of cobwebs, some earthenware jars with holes plugged with bits of cloth, in fact, any kind of receptacle they could get hold of.

"Men and boys, old women and little girls, with their baby brothers carried on their hips and jars on their heads—all came running like mad, all afraid that the water might cease to flow out of the parched ground.

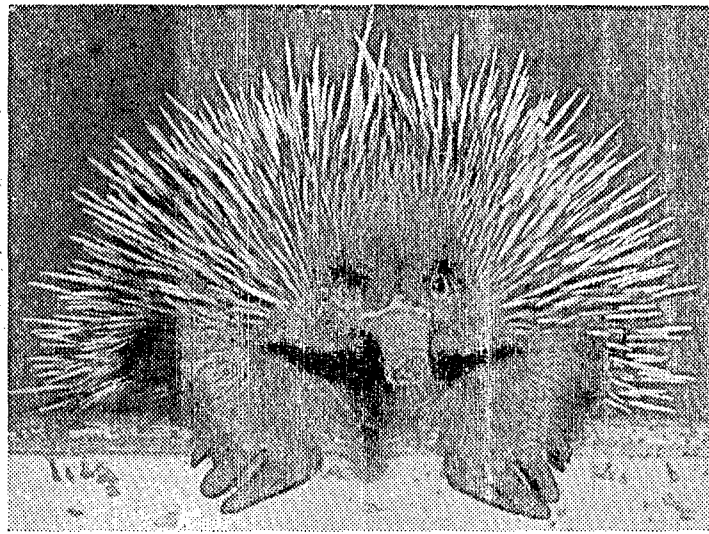
"We gesticulated and shouted until we were hoarse, trying in vain to form a queue. We threatened to stop the pump motor. Finally we forced our way through and filled the jars ourselves. There was shouting and laughing, but there was also a sense of panic. 'Don't let the water stop until I've got some.'

PREJUDICES SWEEPED AWAY

"History was made, too, that day as age-old prejudices broke down. It is unheard of for a caste Hindu to take water from the same well as an outcaste. It is equally unthinkable for an outcaste to dare to take water where a caste Hindu has been with his jar.

"Resolutely we filled the jars in turn, one for a caste Hindu, one for an outcaste. There was embarrassment at first, but in the joy of having so much water the people overlooked their prejudices.

Continued in next column



Call me Spiny

One of the latest arrivals at the Copenhagen Zoo is this spiny ant-eater. It was part of an exchange of animals made with the Amsterdam Zoo.

LOST CONTINENT

Dr. Albert Smith, a botanist of the Smithsonian Institution of America, believes that the Pacific islands are the remains of a vast unbroken land mass that, with Australia, once stretched across the south-west Pacific. He bases his theory on the similarity of plant life in the islands, a lost continent that began to break up about 20 million years ago.

And when we had to go, two of the leading Hindus took our places and filled jar after jar without any discrimination."

This was missionary work of a new kind. These two men were giving not just a cup of cold water in Christ's name, but a full and steady stream of precious life-giving water to a whole village.

It worked a revolution in Santhipuram, which is no longer a place where men and women and little children slowly die of thirst, but a village where there is water in abundance.

STAMP NEWS

AUSTRIA is to have three stamps honouring the music of Mozart, who was born on January 27 just 200 years ago.

ST. HELENA is due to issue a set of three this week to commemorate the centenary of her first stamps.

CHOPIN, Van Gogh, and Rousseau are among the famous men who will be featured on French stamps this year.

A STAMP collector in Los Angeles bid at a London auction by transatlantic telephone recently. He was successful in securing a lot of 7000 British Commonwealth stamps for £380. His telephone bill came to £4.

READING FOR 18 HOURS

How long does it take to read the whole of the New Testament aloud? Well, forty readers of a Baptist Church at Newcastle, near Sydney, set themselves the task recently. Reading non-stop in relay fashion, it took 18 hours.

USEFUL BROLLY

There was a slight hitch on the Tyne the other day when Mrs. T. Lyle officiated at the launching of a small oil-tanker. She named the vessel in the approved manner and then waited expectantly for it to slide down the slipway. But it moved forward only a few feet and then stopped.

Undaunted, Mrs. T. Lyle reached out with her umbrella and began to push. Of course, a little extra help was needed, and this was forthcoming in the shape of a crane, which heaved on a cable at the other end. Together they got the tanker into the water.

THREE BOYS AND A BANDIT

It was an exciting moment for three schoolboys in Wimbledon. They had spotted a man with a scarf tied round the lower part of his face at the wheel of a van on loan to the G.P.O.

"It's a bandit!" they cried, and rushed to inform the police.

In a matter of minutes a police car had drawn up beside the van. Alas for the boys' zeal! The "bandit" turned out to be a post office driver who had just had some teeth out and was wearing the scarf round his face to keep out the cold.

TO AND FRO SERVICE

This amusing sidelight on the peculiarities of trading was revealed recently by the Commercial Counsellor of the Swedish Embassy in London.

"One commodity with some unpronounceable chemical name is exported from Sweden to the United Kingdom, where it is used to produce a plastic material which is exported to Sweden, where it is used to coat paper for a special purpose which is then exported to the United Kingdom, where it is made into products which are then exported to Sweden."

THE LION OF ST MARK—new picture-version of G. A. Henty's thrilling story (2)

Francis Hammond, son of an English merchant in 14th-century Venice, prevented the kidnapping of Signor Polani's two daughters by a man named Ruggiero.

This rogue had intended forcing one of the girls to marry him, so that he might become the rich Venetian's son-in-law. Called to give evidence before the Council, Francis

was unable to identify Ruggiero as the culprit. But he had, nevertheless, incurred the hatred of this dangerous man and his confederates.



Suspected of the attempted abduction, Ruggiero was banished for three years, which meant that he merely lived on the mainland and continued his intrigues. Francis was now a welcome visitor at the Polanis, where he often chatted with the girls and their cousin, Matteo. He noticed that their duenna (governess) frequently gave him black looks, and he suspected that she had been in the plot to kidnap the girls.



One day the girls vanished from a friend's house with their duenna, who had come there with a false story that their father had had an accident. There was no clue as to where they had gone. Later, Francis saw the duenna in a gondola and followed it. Then the duenna's craft stopped by another, which at once began chasing Francis and his servant who, in their racing gondola, had to make swift turns to escape.



It occurred to Francis that the girls might be imprisoned on the bare islet of San Nicolo. He explained to their father that he had visited this place one evening when he had taken a man there who mistook him for a professional gondolier! Suspicious of his "fare," he had secretly followed him, and found that he and others met in a hut to conspire against the Venetian government. Ruggiero was among them.



Impressed by the English boy's story, Signor Polani and several of his servants armed themselves and went in gondolas to little San Nicolo Island. There Francis led them to the lonely fisherman's hut where he had previously seen the plotters and Ruggiero assemble. The anxious father banged on the door and shouted for admittance, but all was silent within. It began to seem that the hut was deserted.

Has Francis led his friend on a wild-goose chase! See next week's instalment

The Children's Newspaper, January 7, 1956

New serial of adventure in the Derbyshire hills

THE BLUE JOHN SECRET

by Garry Hogg

1. Exciting country

"WELL, it certainly looks pretty exciting country," Nessa said, pushing the map back across the table to me. "Terrifically up-and-down!"

Bruce was filling his pipe. Although Nessa and I were itching to be on our way, we knew from past experience that it was not the slightest use trying to hurry him. If we did, we should only fail! I exchanged a glance with her across the table, and she made a face, looking quickly at Bruce and then back at me. I knew exactly what she was feeling.

"Just let me get my pipe going properly, you two," Bruce said, with a twinkle in his eyes as he glanced across at us. "Why must you always be so impatient?"

Thought-reader

It is a bit alarming to have your thoughts read so easily. It was always happening to us when we were with him. Nessa and I had often said that we ought to practise keeping poker faces, but somehow we never seemed to manage it.

Still, since Bruce had spent most

of his life doing unusual and exciting jobs in some branch of the Secret Service (although he is careful never to explain to us exactly what this is), I suppose he has naturally become skilled at reading people's thoughts; behind what he often tells us are just transparent masks.

"We will give you till you have had a hundred puffs at that wretched old pipe of yours," Nessa said.

"Make it a hundred and fifty, there's a sport," Bruce answered; and then proceeded to puff contentedly away as though we were simply not there.

While Nessa started counting, I turned to the map he had given us when we set out from home. It was a large-scale map of the



I pointed them out

kind that is used by walkers more than motorists, and coloured mostly in darkish brown, which showed what high ground most of this was. The odd patches of bright blue were the reservoirs that served the great industrial cities like Manchester and Sheffield, that lay round the edge of the map—luckily nice and far away.

"What a lot of Edges there seem to be, all round where we are going," I said to Nessa. By now she had counted up to 25, with Bruce, I am sure, deliberately puffing more slowly than usual, and had given it up as a bad job.

"Show me," she said, coming round to my side of the table to look at the map with me.

Gliding and scrambling

I pointed them out with the tip of my pencil: "White Edge," I read, "Shatton Edge, Millstone Edge, Froggatt Edge—why, this part of the country is simply stiff with Edges! I suppose they are precipices, aren't they, Bruce?" I asked.

"Yes. Sort of," he agreed. "A better name for them, though, would be escarpments. This is good rock-scrambling country, you know."

Rock-scrambling! I looked round quickly at Nessa. Neither of us had ever had a chance to do any of that.

"And, of course, gliding country," Bruce went on. "Hucklow. International gliding contests, and all that." And he added, casually: "Dick Brownlow is one of the club stars."

He dismissed the subject as though we could not possibly be interested, but, of course, we were! However, we would pick our moment to take him up on that: once again, it is never a good thing to hurry Bruce.

"It isn't all precipices and things, though," Nessa said, thoughtfully. "Lots of it must be quite low. You can tell that from the names of places dotted about everywhere. Oh"—she snatched my pencil and pointed with it—"there is Hucklow, the very place you just mentioned, Bruce. And there is Foolow, quite near. And Wardlow and Tideslow and Ringinglow and Abney Low and—"

"You must have noticed, however," Bruce chipped in, "that most of those names are printed where there is dark brown on the map!"

High Lows

"Which means that they are definitely not low then," I said, and Nessa looked a bit crestfallen.

"Just the reverse, in fact," Bruce went on. "Oddly enough, in Derbyshire a 'Low' is a height!"

"I said it was an up-and-down country," Nessa reminded us.

"More up than down," I put in. "And so much the better, too! There are not enough hills where we live."

"Well, let's go and have a closer look at them," Bruce said, suddenly getting up as though he had been shot from his chair by a powerful spring. "Come on, folks. A hundred miles lie behind us; a good lunch lies inside us; we have fifty miles still to go, and then we are there—right in the midst of Derbyshire's Edges, Lows, Druid Circles, ancient lead mines, tors and scars and cloughs. What are we waiting for?"

Off again

Which, if you come to think of it, was a bit unfair! After all, hadn't we been itching to be on our way for the last half hour and more?

Hastily I folded the map, being careful not to crease it but to find the right folds. Bruce had given the map to Nessa and me for our own, and told us when he did so that a map is—A Good Thing To Have And To Use!

"Hop in," he said. And almost before Nessa and I had wedged ourselves in among our luggage, the big red roadster in which we had already travelled so many miles (and in which we hoped we would travel as many more in

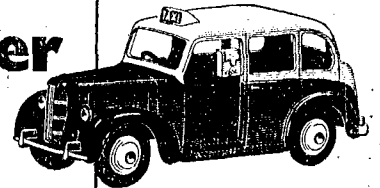
Continued on page 11

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The latest two-tone finish for cars is now being applied to Dinky Toys, and you can get these four models in two-colour schemes



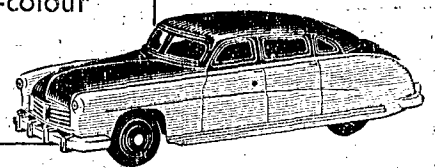
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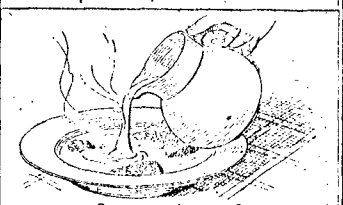
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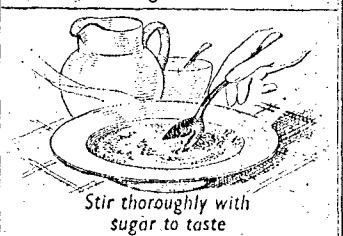
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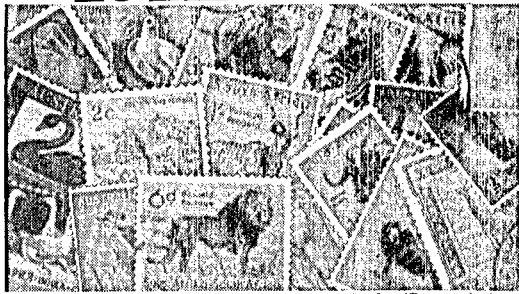


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ZOO NEWS

THESE BABIES ARE VERY SPITEFUL

A CLUTCH of 30 python eggs found by a planter in the bush in Northern Rhodesia was sent to London Zoo for incubation. Now there are eight small pythons.

"A robust and healthy brood, each measuring a little short of two feet, they are singularly big babies," said overseer Mr. R. Lanworn. "Pythons which we have bred here in the past have seldom exceeded 12 or 15 inches, but the largest baby in the present brood measured 21 inches on leaving its shell."

At the moment of writing, none of the young pythons has yet fed. This, however, is normal, for the snakes have no appetite until they are a few days old.

NOT READY FOR VISITORS

Six of the python babies are already on show, living in a "nursery" cage on the south side of the house. The remaining pair are being kept in the laboratory, as keepers want to tame them for handling by visitors. "This is not likely to be for some time yet," says Mr. Lanworn. "I have rarely seen such a spiteful lot of baby snakes—they strike at your fingers at the least provocation. But, with care, they should become tame in time."

A big laugh was caused in the Gardens the other day by a small Greek tortoise. The tortoise was given by a visitor to Keeper Mike Hessey, of the bird house, who lives at the lodge. Intending to

take the tortoise to his home at Finchley next day, Keeper Hessey put it in the gulls' aviary for the night, the weather just then being exceptionally mild.

Next morning a great hulla-balloo was heard in the aviary. On going to the spot, keepers found the tortoise surrounded by about 20 gulls and gannets, who formed a circle around it on the grass and shrieked violently at it. The tortoise wandered on, quite unmoved at the uproar his presence was creating!

BEAR STRENGTH

Pick and Nick, the young Kodiak bears bred at Whipsnade and recently transferred to the old Gorilla House at Regent's Park, have surprised officials with their strength. They are convinced that the pair are the strongest ever seen in the Gardens. All their cage "furniture" has had to be fixed in position to prevent the bears from shifting it around. Even the most massive tree-trunks, weighing many cwt., have had to be secured to the concrete base by heavy iron chains.

For "loose toys," officials have given the Kodiaks an old but strongly made motor tyre. This is an experiment. If the bears do not quickly rip it to bits they will be given other tough playthings. Both bears are shut up in their "bedroom" at night, but there is always a crowd of visitors to greet them when they are let out in the mornings.

CRAVEN HILL

C N Competition Corner

FOOTBALLS and NETBALLS to be WON!

FULL-SIZE, solid leather Footballs for the winning boys, and Netballs for the winning girls. These splendid prizes are to be awarded to the five winners of this week's simple competition, all readers who are under 17, and who live in Great Britain, Ireland, or the Channel Islands may enter. There is no entry fee!

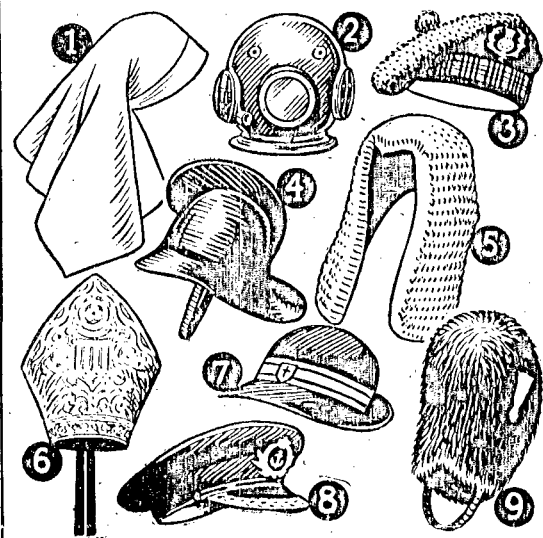
What to Do: Below we show you nine headdresses worn by people in different walks of life, and we simply want you to name the occupation of the people who normally wear them. To help you, here is a list in which all the answers will be found:

Fireman, Jockey, Guardsman, Policeman, High-altitude flyer, Naval Officer, Judge, Postman, Miner, Nurse, Chef, Schoolgirl, Soldier in Scottish Regiment, Racing Driver, Diver, Bishop, Housemaid.

When you have decided on your nine answers, write them in a neat numbered list on a postcard, add your full name, age, and address, then ask a parent or guardian to sign the entry as your own unaided work. Post to:

C N Competition
No. 40,
3 Pilgrim Street,
London, E.C.4
(Comp.),
to arrive by Tuesday, January 17, the closing date.

Football or Netballs will be awarded for the five entries which are correct, or most nearly so, and the best written (or printed) according to age. Autograph Albums for the ten next best. The Editor's decision is final.



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SPORTS SHORTS

ONE of the most unusual football clubs in the country is Warwick Old Boys' Association. The members meet once a month and hold a dinner every year—but the club last played a football match in 1912! Incidentally, floodlit football is nothing new to them; some of the members of this club, which was formed by London boys before the beginning of the century, played under lights at Olympia 50 years ago.

A FEW years ago Japanese players introduced the sponge-covered table tennis bat and proceeded to win title after title. Now comes news that, as more and more English and Continental players are turning to the sponge bat, Japanese players are going back to the orthodox rubber bat.

TWO French scientists have been working on an instrument to measure human effort. One of the sportsmen on whom they tested the instrument was Jean Borotra, the evergreen tennis player. They discovered that the effort he puts into his service is equivalent to that expended in lifting a 55 lb. weight off the ground.

High hopes



Pamela French, of the Spartan Ladies A.C., London, has high hopes for her hurdling and finds that skipping is excellent training.

GEOFF IDEN, the Marathon runner, is the first recipient of the Jim Peters Trophy, awarded for courage, endurance, and determination in athletics. Iden, who comes from Upton Park, in East London, was the only British runner to finish in the 1952 Olympics Marathon at Helsinki; was the first British runner to finish in the European Games in 1954; and last summer finished second in the A.A.A. Marathon. It was this feat which won for him the trophy, for the race was run in a temperature of 81 degrees in the shade.

If at first . . .

AFTER trying for 25 years to win the Royal Navy squash championship, Commander A. P. Pellew has now taken the title. Runner-up for the last four years, he retires from the Senior Service this year.

THERE should be a large crowd at Twickenham on Saturday to watch the final English Rugby trial. This is a vital match for the selected players, for the international season is fast approaching. England's first match is against Wales in a fortnight's time.



SATURDAY will be an important day in the athletics calendar, for the Counties will then stage their own cross-country championships. From the results of these events will be selected the teams for the Inter-Counties cross-country championship to be run at Fletton, Peterborough, in a fortnight's time.

BRIAN ROBINSON, one of Britain's leading long-distance cyclists, prefers roast beef and Yorkshire pudding to the finest Continental cooking. That is one of the reasons why this year he will use a caravan when he travels to the various Continental cycle races. His wife will travel with him.

THE BLUE JOHN SECRET

Continued from page 9

future) had slipped out through the hotel gateway and was roaring off along the main road, heading north at 60 miles an hour.

Where were we bound for? And for that matter, who are we? Perhaps I ought to have explained all this before.

I am Lance Conway. Nessa is my sister—Vanessa being her full name, though not very many people call her by it. Our parents live abroad a good deal of the time, and that is where our uncle and guardian, Bruce Halliday, comes into the picture.

Adventurous times

When we are with him, all sorts of most unlikely things seem to happen to us. It was with him that we shot down to Southampton that time, and took the night boat for France, and started that long chase which ended on Mont St. Michel. And another time, though this was a surprise to him as well as to us, there was all that excitement on Exmoor, when we got ourselves involved with that gang at Twigg's Folly and were able to rescue little Mr. Benedict in the absolute nick of time.

"Easy now, easy!" Bruce said, talking to himself as he often does when he is driving.

We saw the speedometer needle drop steadily from 60 to 25. We were now on a smaller road than the main one we had been following: a series of wiggles and twists and turns between stone walls which, now that they were so

VICTOR BARNA, former world champion table tennis star, leaves this week for a four-month coaching tour of India. Invited by the Indian Government, Barna will train the Indian men's and women's teams for the world championship in Tokyo in April.

Getting right down to it

Robert Exell, of Magdalen College, Oxford, gets down to some loosening-up exercises on the University's training ground at Ilfley Road.

THE amateur squash rackets championship begins on Friday. One of the most colourful personalities in these matches will be Brian Boys, whose expenses in this country are being paid for by a party of Melbourne business men. Although he has been playing squash for only five years, Brian Boys has held the Australian championship for the past three years.

Rolling along

JOYCE AINGER, 19-year-old ex-bus conductress from Aylesbury, claims a world record for her recent performance of roller-skating for 60 hours 1 minute at the Aylesbury Rink.

much closer, seemed suddenly higher, and much more solid.

"These roads were not built for speed-merchants," Bruce remarked over his shoulder. "Pack-horse trains, rather. Slow-and-stolid motion, in the days when few people carried watches and time did not count!"

"I wonder if John is looking out for us," Nessa remarked. "I expect he is. I know I should be."

We had not met John. He was the son of an old crony of Bruce's, Dick Brownlow, and we had been invited to spend part of our school holidays at his home in the wilds of Derbyshire. We knew that John was just about our age, but we did not know anything else about him.

Arrival

"I wish I had a horse, and could ride," Nessa said. She was thinking, I expect, of the pack-horse trains Bruce had mentioned. "This would be gorgeous riding country."

Just then Bruce swung off the road we were on. Now we found ourselves on what was little more than a track, very hard and stony and uneven. The walls had closed in yet more on each side of us, and in this low-slung car it was impossible to see over them. It was like running through a deep stone channel.

"Here we are," announced Bruce, and blew a mighty blast on his horn.

To be continued

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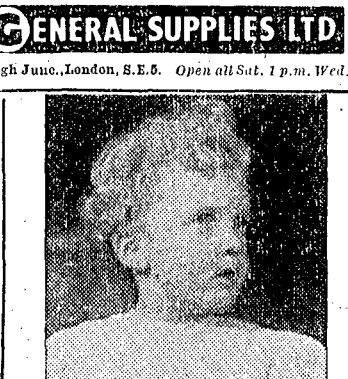
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Cash £3-19-6 on Cordette
Real Gold plated Watch, with Alinox bangle that opens in centre and automatically snugly closes around any size wrist. Written guarantee, pin lever, vibration proof movement. Cash price on cocktail cordette £3-19-6 or with bangle 21/- extra. Luminous model 6/6 extra. NO DEPOSIT, send only 2/6 for packing and registration, 7 days approval. If satisfactory send 7/6, then pay 8 payments of 10/- within 8 months. Don't miss EXTRA FLAT OBLONG WITH CURVED MODEL, with or without bracelet, same terms. LISTS WATCHES, ETC. TERMS.

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THE BRAN TUB

REQUEST ITEM

A YOUNG man found a wallet and, seeing from an address inside that the owner lived nearby, he took it to the house. It proved to have been lost by a very rich man, who said: "I'd like to buy you something."

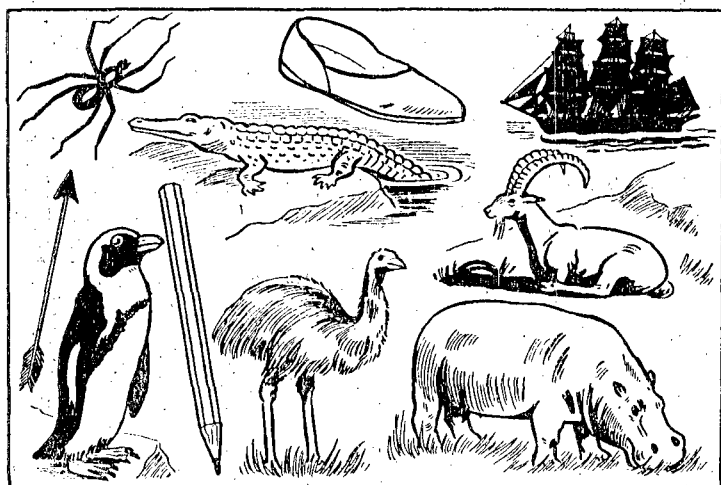
"Oh," said the other modestly, "a golf club would be very nice."

A few days later he received a telegram saying: "Have secured the Jollydale Golf Club with 18-hole course."

A QUESTION OF INITIALS

CORRECTLY arranged, the initial letters of these objects spell, in two words of five letters each, a scientific development of the future. What is it?

Answer in column 5



BEDTIME TALE

LUCKY FIND FOR SAM AND ANN

SAM and Ann had spent Christmas in the country with Granny. It had been great fun. But now Christmas was over and Twelfth Night, too. After Twelfth Night the Christmas decorations had all been taken down and packed away.

Sam and Ann had planted the Christmas tree in the garden and tied nuts and bits of fat and crusts on to its branches for the birds.

"How bare it looks without the holly and the Christmas tree," said Ann.

Granny looked around the room. "Yes. I shall miss the cheerful scarlet holly berries," she said, "and I shall miss you, too, when you go."

Sam and Ann went for their last walk in the fields.

"How bare the trees are," said Ann. "I wish we could pick Granny something exciting to look at so that she would not miss the holly berries."

"Maybe we'll find some hazel catkins," suggested Sam. "Granny likes those. She calls them lambs' tails."

But they could not find any lambs' tails.

"If we could only find one primrose," sighed Ann. "Granny would be so pleased."

But it was too early for the first primrose.

Sam pointed out some clusters of black ivy berries hanging from an old stone wall.

"No," said Ann, shaking her head regretfully. "Granny needs something gay."

And then beyond the old stone wall they saw a little tree with no leaves. From its bare twigs hung orange-pink berries like dainty fairy lanterns.

"Look," pointed Ann. "Those look more like pink flowers than berries. They will remind Granny that though Christmas has gone Spring is coming."

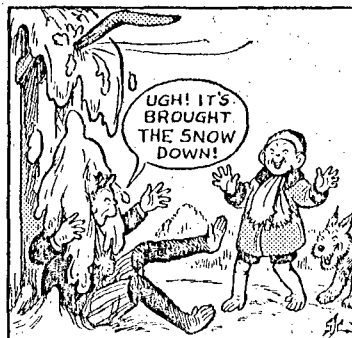
How pleased Granny was with her twigs of fairylike berries!

"What berries are they, Granny?" asked Ann.

"They are spindle-berries," Granny replied, "the prettiest berries of all. What a lucky find!"



JACKO'S SKILL BRINGS HIM A HEAP OF TROUBLE



HOME ATTRACTION

"MOTHER, can I go to the zoo this afternoon? I've heard that there is a new monkey there."

"The very idea! Imagine wanting to go to the zoo to see a monkey when you know your Auntie Ann is coming to tea."

FIND THE TEAM

In the following paragraph the words in *italics* form an anagram of a famous football club. Can you say which one?

IN the United States the pecan tree grows to a height of 170 feet and prefers low land. The wood is hard and durable but the tree is *not* grown for timber so much as for its *nut*, which has a 70 per cent fat content.

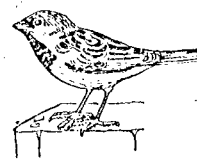
Answer in column 5

SPOT THE . . .

SPARROW as he hops boldly about the garden searching for food. There is nothing timid about sparrows, but neither are they tame.

From January onwards, the black bib of the cock-sparrow appears to become bigger and darker. By the nesting season it is a noticeably attractive feature. Actually, he has worn this "waistcoat" for many months, but it has been covered by the pale tips of new feathers.

The hen is brown, lacking both the black bib and grey crown of the cock bird.



BEHEADED WORDS

Here are clues to six words each of which, when beheaded, will sound the same but have an entirely different meaning.

PASSAGE between pews.

Entire.

Period of time.

Squeeze out moisture.

A rascal.

Answer in column 5

OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Venus is in the south-west and Jupiter is low in the east. In the morning Mars and Saturn are in the south-east and Jupiter is in the south.



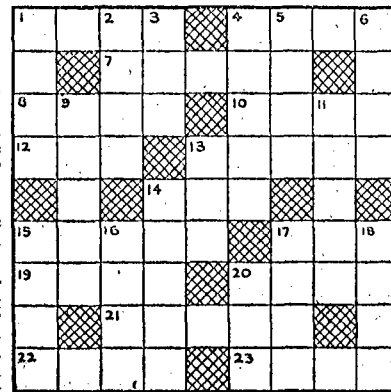
picture shows the Moon as it will appear at seven o'clock on Friday morning, January 6.

Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Couple. 4 Plant this and something should grow. 7 Reproach. 8 Reveal. 10 Pass through slowly. 12 Total amount. 13 A musical instrument should be this. 14 Decay. 15 He hoards his money. 17 Exist. 19 Lazy. 20 Alack. 21 Expel. 22 Layer of ore. 23 Jug.

READING DOWN. 1 Passage through mountains. 2 Article. 3 Uncooked. 4 Animal's nose. 5 Famous school. 6 Act. 9 Moist. 11 Animal with stripes. 13 Hill. 14 Saxon chief magistrate. 15 Building in which corn is ground. 16 Sleigh. 17 Highest male voice. 18 Catch sight of. 20 Perform in a play.

Answer next week



ANSWERS TO QUIZ CORNER

1. Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet. (Richard Of York Gained Battles In Vain.)
2. Sixpence and £2.
3. Kent, in A.D. 597.
4. The Blue Peter, a blue flag with a white square in the centre.
5. Because originally the filling consisted of feathers from the eider-duck.
6. Six.

BRAN TUB ANSWERS

A question of initials. Spider; penguin; arrow; crocodile; emu; slipper; hippopotamus; ibex; pencil; ship—Space Ships Find the team. Luton Town Beheaded words. (A)isle; (w)hole; (h)our; (w)ing; (k)ave Find my name. Aladdin

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